

Viral Encephalitis (Arbovirus)

Revision 08/08/02

Missouri Dept of Health and Senior Services (800) 392-0272 (24 hour)

State Public Health Laboratory (573) 751-3334 or 751-0633

Contact the MSPHL at (573) 751-0633 to obtain specific shipping instructions.

Remember that these samples may be highly infective! Extreme caution should be taken in collecting, preparing for shipment and transporting any material suspected of being contaminated with a biological agent.

Specimen Collection and Transport

Clinical Specimens:

- Collect acute serum and CSF.
- Terminal/postmortem: Serum and pathology samples plus brain material if an autopsy is performed.
- Call for detailed instructions of specimen collection and transport.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Sudden onset of illness with generalized malaise, spiking fevers, rigors, severe headache, photophobia, and myalgias. Nausea, vomiting, cough, sore throat, and diarrhea may follow. full recovery takes 1-2 weeks.
- Incubation period from 1-5 days.
- Standard precautions for healthcare workers.